

EXHIBIT 7

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Hon. Jim Gibbons, Chairperson
Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General
Ross Miller, Secretary of State

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER INTO THE RECORD

Dear Nevada Board of Prison Commissioners:

I am a resident of Pahrump. I oppose with all my heart and soul the contractor owned and operated prison that is being foisted upon me and my town.

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) is very close to building a prison in my town. I want them stopped from coming into Nevada. Their reputation across our nation and around our world is horrendous. Their reputation in Nevada is horrendous. They were here once and left the State of Nevada holding the bag when they did not renew a contract after one term. They were unable to give prisoners proper health care, among other things, and left the State to pick up the pieces, including a rather substantial amount of taxpayer funds for health care which CCA would not pay. I thought they were gone for good.

They're back, with a vengeance. They are about to build a 1500 bed prison with architectural drawings showing a 3000 bed prison and with sufficient acreage, 120 acres with more available, to expand into a morbidly high number of prison beds.

Plus, there is a 150 acre plot directly north of the prison that the developers plan to develop into Section 8 housing. Section 8 housing, as you know, can house HIV prisoners, can house prisoner releases, can house prison families and friends. You think you have trouble now with gangs in Las Vegas, in Nevada – wait!. This prison can take prisoners from anywhere in the world.

The federal government, the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee (OFDT), which is under the Department of Justice (DOJ), has already disavowed any connection, including ownership, of this facility. They have given CCA a Contract Award that guarantees payment of 750 prisoners, a contract which the OFDT can back out of after one year.

So who will fill the rest of the beds? CCA does not even have to take federal prisoners. There are problems in California. There are problems in Alaska. There are problems in Hawaii. California would love to ship out its gang members to Nevada, to Pahrump. As I said, you think you have gang problems now? Wait! Here they come.

How was CCA able to get its hooks into Pahrump? The people certainly do not know how. We had an ordinance on our books that no prison could be built within 50,000 feet of a residence – that's 9.5 miles away from a home. Whittle by whittle this ordinance and others were changed to allow a prison here. Our Commissioners say they were fooled. They thought they were voting for a new jail. I don't think

so. They kept everything so under wraps, that when the NEPA scoping meeting was held, only approximately 9 people showed up. Something is dreadfully wrong with this picture.

Now, CCA has no water. CCA has no sewer. These are commodities that are very precious to Nevadans. Yet CCA is being allowed to build this multi-million dollar facility without yet having secured these utilities. Our utility company, Utilities Inc. of Central Nevada, does not have the proposed prison site in their tariff area, nor have they applied to the Public Utilities Commission for annexation of this property. They cannot give CCA a "will serve" letter without this annexation.

Yet, CCA is being allowed to proceed with their project. What is the intent? To go before the PUC and plead that they have spent millions of dollars on a project that does not even have utilities? When they go before the PUC, and the people object, which they will, will the PUC award the annexation against the will of the people? Just because CCA knowingly went ahead and spent money so that they could claim the poor soul status of having spent so much money that the State of Nevada could not possibly let them down?

Well, they have let the State of Nevada down. They should not be allowed to come into the State of Nevada and bring their garbage here. We in Pahrump have told them we do not want them. Hundreds attended BOCC meetings in an attempt to reason with our Commissioners. Hundreds stood up against the prison in public hearings. The ratio at these public hearings was 5:1 and 4:1 against the prison.

A 20-year corrections officer flew in from out of state to testify at the BOCC public hearing. She had worked in Nevada and Colorado for CCA as a POD supervisor and as an accreditation manager. She testified that she was directed to "doctor accreditation reports" for CCA. The Chairperson of the BOCC asked this woman if she understood that she was under oath. The answer was yes. The BOCC had no further questions. I had a million questions at this point but I was not allowed to speak. The BOCC should have been all over this. How could the BOCC ignore such a statement? Why would we the people and the BOCC want this kind of underhanded business in Nevada? How can such a voice be ignored?

The many, many rational voices of the people were ignored. And guess what? CCA intends to build a huge complex up on the alluvial fan, overlooking nearly the entire valley – they have taken one of the most beautiful spots in Pahrump, and intend to put a megalopolis complex right in among some of the most beautiful homes in Pahrump.

CCA is wily. They change their story to fit the situation. This complex, at the beginning was a 350 bed detention center for federal detainees and high salaries for the people of Pahrump. They promised to contract locally. As time progressed, CCA's story changed. The story now is this is a multi-thousand bed facility which can hold anyone CCA wants to put in it. They have their own contractors from Pennsylvania. They have their own food and materials contractors. So far, the only work that is going to go to Pahrump is the leveling of the pad. CCA will do the same storytelling to Nevada whenever they can and want.

The terrible stories of how CCA treats its prisoners abound. I am sure you are aware of some of these stories, but if you wish to know particulars, please contact me and I will fill your head with these horror stories.

CCA is promising prevailing federal wages and jobs. If CCA does not take federal prisoners, they do not need to pay federal wages. CCA is on record for paying basically minimum wages. And, CCA is

on record for "slave labor" – not only within the prison but also outside the walls. It is of record that factories, manufacturers have shut down facilities, fired hundreds of employees, and then moved to a facility near the prison, facilities often bought and paid for by taxpayers, and used prison labor to replace the American workers. And most, if not all, of these facilities do not pay their fair share of taxes.

CCA is a spec builder. They don't know that they will get water. They do not know that they will get sewer. They do not even know if they will get prisoners. They are so used to getting their way, that they just continue to build. And, they have promised federal oversight to the people of Pahrump. Without federal prisoners, there will be no federal oversight. This means no oversight at all. And CCA will not allow unannounced visits from our Commissioners, nor from our Sheriff. Be aware! CCA can take over control. They have very strong lobbyists. They can start driving Nevada's policies. They can play a game that will have them controlling the correctional and criminal justice policies of Nevada. Look now! Stop this injustice. Do not allow contractor owned and operated prisons in Nevada.

All the best,

Pearl West